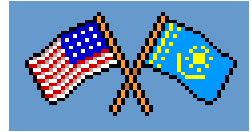


ALUMNIPOST

ECA ALUMNI KAZAKHSTAN



U.S. Embassy Almaty Public Affairs Section

#18 (December-January-February 2006)

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PAS ALUMNI OUTREACH NEWS

SHYMKENT AND ZHEZKAZGAN

In February 2006, PAS alumni coordinator, Akmaral Mukanova, traveled to Shymkent and Zhezkazgan to meet with alumni to talk about the alumni grant program and the State Alumni web-based community.

In Shymkent, after the presentation, alumni had the opportunity to explore American cowboy poetry with an Almaty based U.S. folklorist Steven Hatcher.



*Photo by PAS: Alumni meeting
Miras University, Shymkent*

In Zhezkazgan, the PAS alumni coordinator also visited the IV alumni-run Association of Family Physicians and NGO "Meirim," where she learned about their projects that promote public health and support NGOs. In addition, the alumni participated in an English language club meeting organized by Peace Corps volunteers, and the coordinator gave a talk about study opportunities in the United States.



*Photo by PAS: Alumni meeting
Baikonurov University, Zhezkazgan*

MUSKIE ALUMNI GET TOGETHER TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

On February 18, 2006, six recently returned Muskie/FSA Fellows got together for a Re-Entry Seminar organized by Muskie/FSA alumna, Dariga Chukmaitova, with the support of American Councils (ACCELS).

Most sessions were led by Muskie alumni. The day started with a session on Job Market Perspectives by Aibat Akhmetalmov, marketing director for Philip Morris, and Malika Tukbayeva, marketing manager for Proctor and Gamble.

Askar Tedukatev, regional TB coordinator for ZdravPlus, talked about his field experience and encouraged all the new alumni to be open to working in the field. Representatives from the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy, IREX, and Bilim Central Asia shared information on resources available to Muskie/FSA alumni.

The president of the American Alumni Club, Aigul Sultanbekova, talked about AAC and their goals and encouraged new alumni to join. The usefulness of joining professional associations was also discussed.

Following lunch, older Muskie/FSA alumni sat on an alumni panel and shared their experience and advice with the new alumni. The day concluded with discussions of creating a new Muskie/FSA alumni association.



Photo by PAS: Muskie alumni

The night before, on February 17th, US Ambassador Ordway hosted a reception honoring the new Muskie/FSA alumni and provided them with an excellent networking opportunity.

ACIE

ALUMNI PARTICIPATE IN SPEAKER PROGRAM ON PROTECTING NATIONS FROM TERROR AND CRIME

Vermont Assistant Attorney General and criminal law professor David Tartter visited Almaty to give a series of presentations and to exchange ideas with government, NGO, and academic representatives. This five-day speaker program was initiated by Alumni Research Association member Ms. Raushan Naurzybayeva, who provided contacts and organizational support.

The goals were to increase understanding of U.S. constitutional protections for civil rights and civil liberties in the context of increased national security concerns caused by the threat of terrorism. The speaker also focused on the U.S. criminal justice system and corrections system.



*Photo by PAS: David Tartter
talking to students of
Kazakh State Academy of Law*

The governmental agencies that Tartter visited included the Institute under the General Prosecutor's Office, Department of Justice, and the Department of Corrections. Tartter met with representatives of NGOs working on prison reform, human rights, and the criminal justice system.



*Photo by PAS: David Tartter
at the Department of Corrections*

Many of his interlocutors were alumni of USG sponsored education programs. Tartter participated in a webchat and round-table meeting with alumni. In addition, Tartter lectured to students of the Kazakh State INS Academy of Law, the Kazakhstan Institute of Law and International Relations, and the University of International Business.

PAS

ZHIBEK KARAMANOVA (FLEX'03) WINS EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION ESSAY COMPETITION

FLEX alumni assistant Zhibek Karamanova is one of four winners of the European Training Foundation's international essay competition on the topic "Women in Education and Employment 2010." Zhibek's winning article "Business Women: Just a Dream or Reality? The Current Kazakh Legislation on Women's Employment" describes her vision for women's employment in 2010.

Zhibek Karamanova and the three other winners participated in the international conference "Women in Education and Employment 2010" in Turin, Italy, March 6-7, 2006, organized by the European Training Foundation (ETF) in honor of International Women's Day. In addition, one of the four winners will be selected as the beneficiary of a four-month traineeship at the ETF. The winning article will be published in the next issue of the ETF magazine *Live & Learn*, and all four articles will be featured on the ETF website <http://www.etf.eu.int/>

In her article, Zhibek reviews the current labor market, specifically women's employment in the Republic of Kazakhstan. She analyzes current labor employment policy and presents specific facts that show evidence of improvement in the state's labor policy. The article also describes specific mechanisms that help solve issues regarding the development of businesses led by women.

Some 70 young men and women aged 18-30 from Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South Eastern Europe as well as Enlargement and Mediterranean regions submitted articles describing the role of vocational education and training in advancing the status of women in their societies.

The articles were assessed based on originality of content, creativity, quality of text, and the author's knowledge of the subject matter.

ACIE

ALUMNA LEADS WORKSHOP ON MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS TO STUDENTS IN PETROPAVLOVSK

On January 31, Tahmina Salykova (IV 04) conducted a two-hour course in multimedia presentation software for 14 high school and college students and two college faculty at the Independent Internet Center in Petropavlovsk. The students and faculty had attended computer and Internet basics courses in the beginning of January to acquire computer skills and had since become regular users. Both college and high school students were asked to create a computer-based presentation on Valentine's Day that included a brief history of the holiday's emergence, how it is celebrated in other countries, and other interesting facts. Two college teachers expressed their willingness to incorporate this interesting component into curricula to enrich their teaching materials with the latest up-to-date materials.

To help the students and faculty address their assignments, Salykova showed them how to effectively deliver presentations, use computer-generated visual aids, edit texts and images for presentation, incorporate audio tracks, and build logical images and colors for presentation content. By the end of the seminar, the students had created their first multimedia presentations with substantial information and an attractive design. On behalf of the participants, Olga Gribovskaya remarked, "While creating the presentation, I learned a lot about Valentine's Day and simultaneously received skills which will help me to create another bright presentation in my biology class."

IREX



*Photo by IREX: Salykova shows how to
insert texts into presentation at
Independent Internet Center in
Petropavlovsk*

NEWS FROM AMERICAN CORNERS OSKEMEN

- On December 1-4, the American Culture Center in Oskemen organized an exhibition dedicated to World AIDS Day.
- On January 6, U.S. Embassy cultural affairs specialist Asiyat Suleimenova gave a presentation on Kazakhstan's first Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program at the American Culture Center in Oskemen. Potential participants learned about opportunities to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency, and extend their knowledge of U.S. customs and traditions and present their own country and language.
- On January 25, the American Culture Center hosted a workshop for village teachers of English organized by TEA winner Natalya Krasikova.
- On February 5, the American Culture Center hosted a speakers club on the topic "Fear of Public Speaking" for university students.

PETROPAVLOVSK

- On December 10, American Corner coordinator Marina Bebeko gave a presentation on the American Corner's resources to a group of students from the North Kazakhstan Pedagogical College.
- On February 11, the American Corner in Petropavlovsk hosted a video screening of documentaries on the Democratic and Republican Parties for English language students.

SHYMKENT

On February 9, Steven Hatcher, an Almaty based U.S. specialist on American folklore, delivered a lecture called "A Horse of a Different Color: Poems and Songs of the American Cowboy" at the American Corner in Shymkent. Through the use of traditional and contemporary songs and poems, the audience learned about the professional, daily, and cultural expressions of the Western American cowboy and found similarities between American and Kazakh folklore.

*Elmira Kireyeva
IRC Coordinator, PAS*

PEACE CORPS MAKES VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN CORNERS

Peace Corps volunteers in Kazakhstan provide a significant input to development of the American Corners program in the country. They help the libraries in Oskemen, Shymkent, Petropavlovsk, and Karaganda to run programs such as discussion and movie clubs as well as English language courses. Being American citizens and native speakers, the volunteers bring a real sense of the United States to the corners.

*Elmira Kireyeva
IRC Coordinator, PAS*

TEACHING ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS

From February 13 to February 24, 2006, U.S. embassy Almaty hosted English Language Specialist Carlyn Syvanen for a two-week program on teaching English to young learners. In Almaty and Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, Carlyn Syvanen worked with in-service school teachers, as well as college and university faculty.

The emphasis of her program was on creating a collaborative language environment in primary schools. The songs and children's books she used during her workshops made the participants' experience exciting and unforgettable. English specialist Syvanen demonstrated how to use students' background knowledge to reach specific language teaching goals. Her personal insights into what made her English teaching career so rewarding was a vivid encouragement for young teachers and faculty members.

In Zhezkazgan, Carlyn Syvanen participated in an English movie night event and gave a talk about her home country at an English language club meeting for students and faculty. This meeting was organized by Peace Corps volunteers.

*Lyudmila Smirnova
English Language Specialist, PAS*

ALUMNI LEARN TO CAPTURE EYE-CATCHING PHOTOS FROM PHOTOGRAPHER BRIAN NEELY

In January, Photographer Brian Neely conducted photography training for alumni. Mr. Neely shared with the audience interesting insights on how to take great shots and tips for choosing the right camera. Mr. Neely used photos from his recent U.S. embassy sponsored exhibit, *40 Images*, at the Ular Gallery, to illustrate different photographic techniques.

FLEX LAWYERS MEETING

On January 29, 2006 the FLEX lawyers had their first meeting. 23 alumni came together to listen to their senior FLEX fellow lawyers about their professional successes. Guest speakers Rustam Ilzhanov '94, Asel Yermekova '94, Alla Kalinina '94, Aziz Abdurkarimov '00, Dinara Tanasheva '94, Bagzhan Zhamalova '01, Dina Daulenova '01, and Gaukhar Kirneyeva '01 discussed a wide range of topics from current legislation issues in Kazakhstan to job-hunting skills at law firms and the importance of FLEX program experience in work. The meeting gave FLEX lawyers an opportunity to share their experiences in their professional field.

*Zhibek Karamanova
FLEX Coordinator*



*Photo by ACIE:
FLEX lawyers meeting*

TEA ALUMNA'S RURAL TEACHERS PROJECT

Vera Krepysheva '99 continues former English Language Fellow Patricia Estep's initiative and conducts seminars on new teaching methodologies for rural English teachers throughout the Kostanai oblast village teachers of English. The project is funded through the American Councils Special Projects Initiative Grant Program.

During the first seminar, regional participants selected by the Kostanai Oblast In-Service Institute for Teachers' Professional Development learned communicative approaches to teaching English, multi-media techniques, and critical thinking exercises. They received some reference materials that they would use to train their colleagues in their regions.

ACIE

UGRAD ALUMNI STRENGTHEN CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS WITH SERBIAN EXPERT

In January, Marko Radosavljevic, an expert in the field of conflict resolution conducted training for UGRAD alumni. Mr. Radosavljevic began the training session with an interesting exercise in which the UGRAD alumni were asked to make a decision on a very moot point; the result was conflict creation. From this initial conflict, Mr. Radosavljevic discussed the causes of and types of conflicts. The alumni then asked various questions about how to resolve conflict in the workplace. Mr. Radosavljevic gave some tips on conflict resolution and suggested that the alumni search for a solution by understanding the interests of conflict players. Marko Radosavljevic is an attorney and a conflict management specialist with experience in alternative dispute resolution (Bristol, Great Britain and Canadian Institute for Mediation) and judicial reform in Serbia.

IREX

ALUMNI PREPARE TO ACCESS EDUCATIONAL LOANS

At the request of UGRAD and FLEX alumni seeking opportunities to fund their education, UGRAD Alumni Fellow Nurzhan Kozhakhmetov (UGRAD '05) organized an educational loans roundtable for alumni. At the roundtable, Shukhrat Sadyrov, head of the Credit Risks Department at ATF bank in Almaty, shared information with alumni about a new educational loan project that will begin this fall. Under the new program, students with a record of high academic performance will be eligible for long-term loans at low interest rates. To prepare alumni to participate in this upcoming program, Mr. Sadyrov talked about general credit requirements and gave some tips for successful applications.

IREX

ALUMNI REFLECT ON INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

In February, alumni reflected on the importance of intercultural communication in our changing world. Daniel Geijer, a specialist in intercultural communications, led a seminar for alumni focusing on the nexus between culture and communication. Participants discussed the comparison of values in two different cultures, using religion and personal values as illustrative examples. Alumni also discussed the role of globalization in intercultural communications.

IREX

FLEX ALUMNI AT KHABAR'S YOUTH TALK SHOW

On February 6, 2006, 10 FLEX alumni participated in the national youth talk show "Nachistotu" that was broadcast on the Khabar TV channel.

The topic of the show was "Opposition Is Also a Position". The discussion began by analyzing the issue of tolerance to opposite opinions on education, religion, politics, etc. Participants including FLEX alumni were actively involved in the discussion debating whether or not opposition builds a stronger community.

Questions from Marzhan Serekova, Nellya Khairova, Anel Moldakhmetova, and Katya Serebryanaya made the show especially exciting. The production team of the Youth Talk Show "Nachistotu" asked alumni to come up with a topic they would like to discuss on TV. Marzhan Serekova '04 and Zhibek Karamanova '03 were invited to be the speakers for one of the upcoming shows.

ACIE

ALUMNI SHARE A TASTE OF KAZAKH HISTORY WITH CHILDREN FROM A LOCAL ORPHANAGE

On December 8, 2005, 15 alumni organized a trip for 65 orphans from the 1st Almaty Oblast Orphanage to the movie theatre. This event was paid for with funds that were raised during the 2005 Turkey Bowl, an alumni organized soccer match between KIMEP University and the Almaty American community.

Alumni rented the whole cinema hall of the movie theatre to watch the Kazakh, Russian, and American co-production of the historical movie *Nomad*. Prior to watching the movie, alumni organized an oral quiz as a review of the history of Kazakhstan to help the children watch the movie with better understanding. T-shirts with the logos of Kazakhstani FLEX Alumni Association and American Councils were given to children as the prizes for correct answers. All the children enjoyed the movie, snacks, prizes, information about the FLEX program, and the event overall. Also as part of this event, alumni brought the children at the orphanage books, clothes, and toys collected during the previous two month clothing drive.

ACIE

ALUMNI GRANTS PROGRAM

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION U.S. EMBASSY

The U.S. embassy Public Affairs Section accepts applications to its Alumni Grants Program. The purposes of this program are to provide alumni with networking opportunities, to further the professional development of alumni and their colleagues, and to assist them in the implementation and teaching of concepts that they explored during their exchange programs.

Awards may be used for the following:

- to initiate a public or community service program;
- to support alumni association events;
- to organize training programs or conferences for professional colleagues and/or other alumni;
- grants for travel of Eurasian and Southeast European alumni within Europe and Eurasia, including regional alumni events;
- cost-sharing for international travel grants for alumni to the United States;
- continued funding for existing alumni centers, and start-up costs for alumni associations;
- networking events;
- develop and publish textbooks, brochures, pamphlets, or related reference or educational materials on topics that further USG assistance goals; and
- conduct other projects that support democratic and economic reform initiatives.

AMOUNT:

\$3000 for individuals and \$5000 for alumni organizations.

If you receive funding, you will be required to submit a detailed program and financial report on the outcomes of the project.

WHERE TO SUBMIT:

Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy
97 Zholdasbekov St., Samal Towers 11th floor, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 050059
Tel: (3272) 50-48-64
Fax: (3272) 50-48-67
e-mail: mukanovaab@state.gov

Alumni.state.gov сайтында орналасқан ғаламдық

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- Грант туралы мағлұмат
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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear ECA Alumni:

We welcome your success stories, articles, letters to the editor, class notes, including personal notes, news, birthdays, marriages, promotions, and memorials. You may also post announcements related to alumni activities. We will be gradually including your stories as time and space allow. Please send your articles to mukanovaab@state.gov.

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